

In February, Representative KEATING and I proudly introduced a bill that affirms the U.S. Government's support for Georgia's eventual membership in NATO. It also calls on the Obama administration and our allies in Europe to formally extend to Georgia a Membership Action Plan at this year's NATO Summit in Wales.

We must stand with those who have stood with us. We must honor independence by preserving independence. Together, I believe the United States and Georgia can help all peoples of the world hold on to the sweet taste of freedom.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING RANI ENGINEERING & PRESIDENT SUSAN PARK RANI

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susan Park Rani on being named one of eleven "Champions of Change" by the White House for ensuring that our transportation facilities, services, and jobs help connect individuals and their communities to greater opportunities.

Ms. Rani is the Founder and the President of Rani Engineering, which has grown from having two employees and a vision to a team of more than 45 people with offices in Minnesota, California and South Dakota. Under Ms. Rani's leadership, Rani Engineering has worked to deliver high-quality solutions and build long lasting relationships within the communities she serves. As a result of the company's efforts, Rani Engineering was named the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Contractor of the Year in 2012 by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Ms. Rani is an inspiration for women, minorities, immigrants and anyone who aspires to start their own business. She moved to the United States as a child from South Korea without knowing English, but excelled in school and obtained a civil engineering degree in 1993. She is one of the first minority women to own an engineering firm in Minnesota. There is no doubt that Ms. Rani's ambition and dedication have enabled her company to compete with the largest institutions in the industry.

Ms. Rani's many achievements have been recognized by regional groups and national organizations. She has earned the Minority Business Award for Small Business Excellence by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, Debener Award for Small Business Growth by St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Engineering Excellence Award by the American Consulting Engineering Companies, SBA Emerging 200 by the U.S. Small Business Administration and many more highly renowned awards.

With her past positions on the boards of the American Consulting Engineering Companies of Minnesota, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Mounds Park Academy, the Association of Women Contractors, and the National Association of Minority Contractors, Upper Midwest along with her recent position on the Destination Medical Center Corporation Board, she is inarguably a Champion of Change.

I commend Ms. Rani on her award and her thoughtful contributions as both an entrepreneur and as an excellent member of the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to a weather related travel delay, I was absent for rollcall votes on May 28, 2014. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 241—H. Res. 599—Urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression—"yea."

Rollcall No. 242—H.R. 503—National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial Act—"yea."

HONORING PONSIE BARCLAY HILLMAN

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ponsie B. Hillman, an educator, an advocate, and pioneer in the civil rights and labor movements. Her life was defined by a love for education and driven by the staunch determination to share it. She passed away on June 26, 2008, but her legacy remains vivid.

Ms. Hillman was born in Maryland, October 7, 1918. The determination and success that characterized her early education would foreshadow her later success. She battled overwhelming social odds by prioritizing her schooling and pulling ahead of her peers. During Ms. Hillman's senior year, she received the highest grade in the county on the state exam. She supported herself through college on scholarships and summer jobs, graduating from Morgan State College in 1939.

Ms. Hillman moved to Philadelphia in 1948. She taught business at Vaux High School for 6 years before taking a post as a mathematics teacher at Roosevelt Junior High. She spent her summers furthering her own education by taking classes at Columbia University, earning a Masters in Mathematics and Education. Never ceasing to take every opportunity to learn, she continued attending classes at Sarah Lawrence College where she was able to offer her children their first view of higher education. She also studied Intergroup Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1959, Prince Edward County, VA, had closed its public schools to avoid court ordered integration. Ponsie Hillman arrived in the summer of 1963 to partake in the United Federation of Teacher's effort to establish Freedom Schools. She volunteered as a teacher for those students no longer able to receive an education. She was greeted with hostility from those who did not understand in-

tegration and from those who refused to accept change. Using the local church for classroom space, Ms. Hillman was successful in providing quality education to over 600 students that summer. She received an American Federation of Teachers award for her work at the Freedom Schools in Prince Edward County.

In addition to her selfless dedication to educating others, Ms. Hillman's contributions to the education community matched her passionate appetite for learning. She became an integral part of the community and consistently fought for teachers' rights, fair wages, and higher quality teaching. She won the NAACP's highest individual award for outstanding achievement as a teacher and was named a lifetime member. Ms. Hillman completed a 5-year term as a delegate to the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers where she served on the executive board, sharing her experience and cultivating ways to combat national education challenges. During her tenure, she organized the Afro-American Heritage Committee, the Asian American Committee, and initiated United Federation of Teachers summer camps. She was noted for her solidarity to the Union and her commitment to serving the community of educators.

I am pleased to honor Ponsie B. Hillman for her unceasing efforts and outstanding progress in working to make education equitable and attainable for all students. Her legacy in Prince Edward County and her mark on the national education system will inspire generations to come.

HONORING THE REVEREND J. CLETUS KILEY ON THE CELEBRATION OF HIS 40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to celebrate the 40th Pastoral Anniversary of my good friend, the Reverend J. Cletus Kiley. Over the course of his 40 years as a priest, Father Kiley has served the church and his congregations with great dedication and commitment. Today, as he reflects on all that he has accomplished through his ministry, he can be proud of the impact he has had on the lives of so many.

Father Kiley has a rich and diverse career with the church. A priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, in his earliest years he served as a member of Cardinal Bernardin's Cabinet and Director for Personnel Services for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Having studied at the Centro de Artes y Lenguas in Cuernavaca, Mexico as well as the Seminario Arcivescovile di Milano in Venegono, Italy, Father Kiley is fluent in both Spanish and Italian. His trilingual knowledge was particularly helpful during his service as Acting Vicar for Religious, Chairman of the Comision del Plan Pastoral Hispano and as Asesor for El Movimiento del Encuentro Conyugal Arquidiocesano, and as an Associate Dean of Formation and spiritual director at Mundelein Seminary.

Father Kiley went on to serve as Rector/President of Niles College Seminary/St. Joseph College Seminary at Loyola University where he developed and implemented a new strategic plan that led to the relocation of the seminary on to the main campus of Loyola University. Before joining the Conference of Bishops where he was Executive Director of the Secretariat for Priestly Life and Ministry, Fr. Kiley was pastor of St. Agnes of Bohemia parish in Chicago, one of the largest parishes in Chicago serving over 5,000 immigrant families.

In June of 2006, Father Kiley became the President and CEO of the Faith & Politics Institute and during his four-year tenure he worked closely with members of Congress from both political parties. He hosted an annual program for members of Congress and members of the Labor and Business communities to reflect on the lives and issues of importance to America's working people, oversaw the development of a dialogue group for over 35 Senate chiefs of staff, and conducted weekly reflection groups for members of Congress. I, along with many of my colleagues, consider it fortunate that the Congress has had such a dedicated and compassionate advocate working with us.

Today, Father Kiley continues his ministerial work as the Director for Immigration Policy for UNITE HERE where he works on immigration reform strategies with the union's national leadership and its local members throughout the country. He serves as a staff member to the Immigration Committee of the AFL-CIO. He also works with a variety of allies including serving on the steering committee for the Justice for Immigrants Initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at the Catholic University of America. Father Kiley also oversees a project to train a new generation of Catholic Labor priests with more than 125 priests now a part of this network. The initiative is housed at the National Federation of Priests' Councils and done in consultation with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The initiative was recently endorsed by the U.S. Association of Catholic Priests and was honored by the Association of Chicago Priests.

As a religious leader, advocate, mentor and friend, Father Kiley has touched the lives of thousands—helping to shape public policy and improving the quality of life for those most in need. Through all of his good work he has inspired others to join in his efforts—instilling hope and promise in all of those who have had the good fortune to work with him. His spiritual guidance has nourished the souls of many and his compassion has encouraged others to give more of themselves. Today, as he celebrates his 40th year as a priest, he continues to make a difference in the lives of others—his work a reflection of the heart of Catholic teachings. I am proud to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation as well as my heart-felt congratulations to Father J. Cletus Kiley as he celebrates this very special milestone. Happy 40th Anniversary and best wishes for many more years of success..

IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF ALL VETERANS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and honor of all veterans on this Memorial Day, celebrated on Monday. In gratitude of all freedom lovers who made our freedom and our ability to stand on this floor today as a free people possible—in particular the 400,000 men and women who gave their lives and the 16.5 million men and women who served during World War II.

This Memorial Day is particularly poignant as it is the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the World War II Memorial on the Mall. And on June 6th, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the invasion of 150,000 Allied troops' landing on the heavily-fortified coastline of Normandy, France—D-Day.

On this year of anniversaries, as we think about the importance of this Memorial's place in American history, let us remember the significance of what these greatest Americans, this greatest generation of Americans, did for the freedom of humankind.

When we dedicated the memorial in 2004, more than four million of the 16 million American veterans of World War II were still alive. Today, fewer than a million remain. We lose more than 500 of them every day. And ten years from now, at the 20th anniversary ceremony, only 80,000, roughly, will survive.

At the memorial, what Abraham Lincoln called "the mystic chords of memory" are played with grandeur and grace. And that is what the memorial is all about. It was built to preserve a memory—

The memory of gallantry and devotion, of honor and sacrifice, of dedication to a cause bigger than oneself.

The memory of a generation of ordinary Americans who did something extraordinary—answering duty's call, saving democracy, and then modestly returning to their communities and their families, to work in the factory, to work on the farm . . . or simply to carry the mail.

The World War II Memorial will be there long after the World War II veterans are gone. While they are still with us, take the opportunity to let them know that a grateful nation will always pay tribute to their courageous service and they will always be remembered as heroes.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of all World War II participants, and those who served in the conflicts that followed.

THE DEPARTURE OF JODY CALEMINE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to one of the most loyal, dedicated and creative members of my staff, Jody Calamine, who is leaving my staff on the Education and Labor Committee after more than 10 years of service.

I also want to thank Jody's wife Daria and their wonderful daughter Bella for sharing Jody with us and for their support and sacrifice all these years.

During his time on my staff, Jody quickly moved up the ranks, from labor policy advisor, to general counsel and for the last three years staff director.

Throughout this time, Jody has impressed us with his intimate, detailed knowledge of the laws, regulations and policies impacting workers and families across the country.

Jody's tireless advocacy on behalf of workers has been remarkable. During his time on the Committee staff Jody has earned the admiration and respect of Members of Congress, his colleagues on the Hill and in the Obama Administration, and among the labor and business community across the country.

Jody played an invaluable role in many of the Committee's accomplishments over the years including the enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was the first bill signing ceremony of the Obama Administration.

And I want to thank him and acknowledge his tireless work and leadership on the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, the Affordable Care Act, the Employee Free Choice Act, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and a number of mine safety initiatives.

Jody is leaving the Committee for a position with the Communications Workers of America where he will continue to work on these issues that he cares so much about.

I speak for everyone on the Committee and all of those who have worked with Jody over the years when I say how much we will miss him.

Jody has made significant contributions to improving the lives of the American people. I cannot thank him enough for all that he has done. On behalf of myself, his fellow staff and the members of the Committee, we wish him the very best in his new position.

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR NON-VIOLENT POLITICAL PROTESTORS IN EGYPT

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the dire condition of an American political prisoner in Egypt, Mohamed Soltan.

Mohamed is an Egyptian-American citizen who grew up in the United States. He graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in economics.

The Arab Spring inspired Mohamed to support democracy, freedom, and human rights in Egypt. Last year he joined thousands of peaceful protestors in Egypt to oppose the military coup that toppled the government of Mohamed Morsi.

While demonstrating in Rabba Square last August, the Egyptian military shot him in the arm. He was treated in a makeshift clinic with no anesthetic medication.

Mohamed was one of the lucky ones that day. Hundreds of unarmed demonstrators were killed and thousands were injured.

Shortly after being shot, Mohamed was arrested by Egyptian authorities for protesting.